



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2461  
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 2461.

The bill's stated purpose is to create a wage claims assignment fee fund for the purpose of collecting all costs, including attorney's fees, related to claims of unpaid employee wages brought before any court. The Kansas Chamber's core focus is to protect the business community from legislative actions that increase the cost of doing business in the State. This legislation would certainly increase business costs while not actually creating any added value or benefit to employees.

Currently, the Kansas Department of Labor provides representation for any employee with a wage claim. Creating a fund to pay attorneys' fees would only encourage additional court filings outside of the current process provided through the Department of Labor while also adding unnecessary additional governmental costs and bureaucracy.

The State of Kansas is surrounded by several states that have highly competitive business climates. If we wish to continue attracting and keeping world class businesses of all sizes, it is important to insure the State does not add unnecessary and unreasonable costs to businesses that do not benefit employers or their employees.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB2461 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.